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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/553,841 | 04/21/2000 | Khoi Phan | E0806 | 6614 |

7590

09/07/2005

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EXAMINER

REKSTAD, ERICK J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2613

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Rekstad

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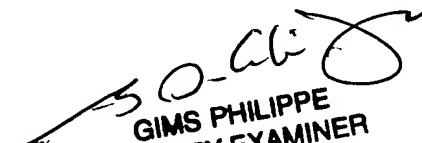
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Commissioner for Patents

The reply brief filed June 8, 2005 has been entered and considered. In regards to the arguments by the Applicants' representative that the rejection of independent claims 1, 15 and 19 is deficient based on the Examiner's Answer incorrectly contending that the claims are silent regarding that the energy obtained by the image collector is related to the developing process. As noted in the Examiner's Answer to the Appeal Brief, Ogata teaches the use of a coating/developing unit and Sanada teaches the monitoring of a coating unit. In the combination an image collector may only obtain images during the coating process but the image is obtained in the coating/developing chamber. Since the claims only state in the preamble that the system monitors semiconductor processing and that the images are indicative of the interior of the chamber, the combination of Sanada and Ogata satisfies the requirements of the claims. Therefore the claims are too broad and it is suggested by the examiner to amend the claims to include the limitation of obtaining images for only the developing process in order to claim the intended invention.

The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal.


GIMS PHILIPPE
PRIMARY EXAMINER